

LESSONS LEARNED FROM FREEDOM'S FRONTIER

This section reviews some key lessons learned from *Operations Enduring* and *Iraqi Freedom* detailing operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait over the past year and how the Army Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (AL&T) Workforce is helping meet operational contingencies across the full spectrum of conflict. As the Army fulfills its vital role in supporting national security objectives, the AL&T Workforce continues to directly sustain our combatant commanders and their warfighters on the ground with improved communications and logistics support, technological innovations that enhance Soldier survivability and integrative technology that has yielded new combat and force protection capabilities that improve situational awareness (SA) and battle command.

From Blue Force Tracking to Combat Terrain Information Systems and Joint Network Node integration, improved weapon systems capabilities combined with highly mobile communications networks have helped orchestrate network-centric operational capabilities that empower battlefield commanders to make real-time decisions through improved SA across the operational battlespace. Advanced technology integration will continue to impact the U.S. Army's fundamental approach to operations and battle command, serving as force multipliers that are revolutionizing the roles of command and control, communications, computers and intelligence.

New communication systems have allowed nonhierarchical dissemination of intelligence, targeting and other operational data at all levels. This section's articles discuss several technological innovations and how this technology is directly benefiting our Soldiers while also greatly improving situational understanding to ensure rapid, clear battlefield communications. Advances in information management and distribution are facilitating the horizontal integration of battlefield functions and are yielding new combat capabilities as we redefine the way we collect, communicate and use information. Additionally, microprocessing technology is giving U.S. forces the capability to conduct and dominate increasingly sophisticated information operations by manipulating, isolating and controlling the electromagnetic spectrum.

By exploiting these technological successes, leaders at every level can visualize current and future states, assign missions, prioritize and allocate resources and then select the critical time and place to act. Because force digitization allows a relative common picture of the battlefield, these shared Information Age advantages will reduce battlespace uncertainties and shorten the commander's decision cycle radius.

Editor-in-Chief